



## **PRESS RELEASE**

*NBCC Foundation*

3 Terrace Way

Greensboro, NC 27403-3660

Phone: 336-232-0376

www.nbccf.org

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 17, 2015

## **NBCC Foundation Awards 40 Master's Counseling Fellowships**

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2015 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (NBCC MFP-Y). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved minority populations. The Foundation will distribute \$200,000 to the 40 NBCC MFP-Y Fellows to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).



The Foundation received more than 100 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Master's Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Walter Swingler, selected 40 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including a commitment to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation, enrollment in a master's program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), demonstrated knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations, and commitment to provide mental health services to underserved minority transition-age youth (16–25) populations for two years post-graduation. This first cohort of MFP-Y Fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFP Master's Advisory Council and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2015 MFP-Y Fellows are Mirsha E. Alexandre, Barry University; Dori Best, Southern Oregon University; Shabria Caldwell, Mercer University; Brittney Cambridge, Old Dominion University; Francesca Cooley, Purdue University Calumet; Alyssa de la Torre, University of Northern Colorado; Jamie Doak, Denver Seminary; Lauren Fortune, James Madison University; Frances Gee, Argosy University; Maryorie Gómez Gómez, Colorado State University; Edith Gonzalez, The College of William and Mary; Javaris Green, University of South Florida; Niah Grimes, Wake Forest University; Robyn Hale, University of North Carolina at Pembroke; Latoya Haynes-Thoby, Pennsylvania State University; William Hemphill, Georgia State University; Ecclesia Holmes, Georgia State University; Tavonda Hudson, Mercer University; Breonna Krafft, Northwest Nazarene University; Rae Lopez, Purdue University Calumet; JeNai Marshall, Wilmington University; Crystal McDowell, North Carolina Central University; Sian McNeary, University of Louisville; Bianca Merkle, Idaho State University-Meridian; Consuelo Mockerman, Colorado Christian University; Diana Mondragon, Northern Illinois University; Joshua Morgan, The University of Louisiana at Monroe; Shinelle Oglesby, Loyola University of Maryland; Carolina Ortega, University of New Mexico; Deborah Osborne, Vanderbilt University; Andrea Parodi, University of Florida; Carolina Perez, Hunter College; Christianne Ricard, Southeastern Louisiana University; Lawrence Richardson, Oklahoma State University; Cristian Rodriguez, University of Nebraska Kearney; Marisol Salgado, Sam Houston State University; Haleigh Scherma, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Rita Thomas, Eastern Michigan University; Marisol Velez, Marywood University; and Tukria Watley, Argosy University.

The NBCC MFP-Y is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the MFP-Y, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2015. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its Fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

#### About the NBCC Foundation

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 55,000 National Certified Counselors (NCCs) in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

###